

1 This action is in response to the communication filed on 11/21/2008.

2 **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3 An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or
4 additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR
5 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the
6 payment of the issue fee.

7 Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with
8 Marc Hanish on 12/18/2008.

9 The application has been amended as follows:

10 Please cancel claims 1-2.

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14 ***Allowable Subject Matter***

15 The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While the prior art
16 taught watermarking methods and systems which compare orthogonally transformed coefficients
17 of different blocks within an image, the prior art fails to teach or suggest the particular
18 combination of limitations as claimed including modifying the data embedding procedure based
19 upon whether or not difference between the orthogonal transformed coefficients of blocks is
20 within a preset range.

21 Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the
22 payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

1 fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for
2 Allowance."

3 ***Conclusion***

4 Claims 3, 5, and 7-20 are allowed.

5 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
6 examiner should be directed to MATTHEW T. HENNING whose telephone number is
7 (571)272-3790. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4.

8 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
9 supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the
10 organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
12 Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications
13 may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished
14 applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR
15 system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR
16 system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would
17 like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated
18 information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

19
20 /Matthew T Henning/
21 Examiner, Art Unit 2431

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23 /Christopher A. Revak/
24 Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2431